Recommendations of CACP for MSP

794. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any recommendations from the CACP to increase the Minimum Support Price of paddy, sugarcane, cotton and groundnut;

(b) if so, whether the said recommendations have been accepted by Government;

(c) by when the same are likely to be implemented;

(d) if not, the reasons for non-acceptance of the recommendations;

(e) whether Government has to bear any additional burden for the purpose; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (f) The Commission for Agriculture Costs and Prices (CACP) has submitted its Report on Price Policy for Kharif Crops and Sugarcane of 2008-09 season to the Government. Final decision regarding the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for the Kharif crops and Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of sugarcane of 2008-09 season will be taken by the Government after obtaining the views of State Governments/UTs and Central Ministries as well as such other relevant factors which are considered important for fixation of support prices. The financial implications of any decision regarding MSP will be worked out by the Department of Food and Public Distribution under whom Food Corporation of India (FCI) functions.

Suicides of farmers in Uttar Pradesh

795. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are reports of drought in some parts of Uttar Pradesh with farmers committing suicide;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that relief provided so far is meager and has not ameliorated the conditions of farmers there;

(d) the steps Government is contemplating to provide further relief particularly in areas like Bundelkhand; and

(e) whether there are any plans to introduce crop insurance in such areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) This year, the Government of Uttar Pradesh have reported drought in parts of the State. However, no report on suicides by farmers in the context of drought has been received from the State Government.

(c) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to take necessary measures in the wake of natural Calamities including drought. There is ready availability of funds with the State Government in the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for taking such measures. No Memorandum has so far been received from the State Government for assistance from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) etc. for the current drought.